

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 121608Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7604

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, JO

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FROM JORDAN

REF: A. STATE 224863, B. STATE 212848

1. WE HAVE SUGGESTED BELOW SEVERAL CHANGES TO EXCELLENT
DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT PROVIDED REF A, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO POINTS WHICH B. INSTRUCTED US TO FOCUS ON.
OUR COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO DRAFT.

2. SECTION I C, COMMENT ON LAST SENTENCE OF LAST PARAGRAPH:
POST HAS NO INFORMATION ON PRISONERS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN
"ADOPTED" BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. ASSUME THEREFORE
THAT STATEMENT IS DRAWN FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
DEPARTMENT.

3. SECTION I C: LAST SENTENCE IN THIRD PARAGRAPH:
SUGGEST DELETION OF "... A LEADER OF ..." AND
SUBSTITUTION OF "... MEMBERS OF AN ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT".
(FYI: RATIONALE: WE DO NOT WISH TO SINGLE OUT MAYOR OF
AMMAN, MAAN ABU NUWWAR BY IMPLICATION IN UNCLASSIFIED
DOCUMENT. IN FACT, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUP ATTEMPT --
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SADIQ SHAR'I, FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
MUHAMMAD SAID ABU NUWWAR, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF
INFORMATION AND OTHERS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED HIGH OFFICE.)

4. SECTION I D, DELETE ENTIRE PARAGRAPH AND SUBSTITUTE:
"UNDER THE 1955 DEFENSE LAW, CERTAIN CIVIL CRIMES MAY
BE TRIED BY MILITARY COURTS WHEN MARTIAL LAW IS IN

EFFECT AS IT HAS BEEN SINCE 1973. JUDGMENT HANDED DOWN BY MILITARY COURTS CAN NOT BE APPEALED. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFENSES THAT TRADITIONALLY FALL UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION, CURRENT REGULATIONS PROVIDE THAT SUCH CRIMES AS EMBEZZLEMENT BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, BLACK MARKETEERING, TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND WEAPONS, SECURITY OFFENSES AND ESPIONAGE ARE TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE MILITARY COURTS. HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF OFFENSES AND SUITS ARE SETTLED IN CIVIL COURTS IN FAIR AND PUBLIC TRIALS WITH A FULL APPEALS PROCESS AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. THERE IS A THIRD SET OF COURTS WITH AN INDEPENDENDLY CERTIFIED JUDICIARY THAT HANDLES FAMILY STATUS MATTERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TRADITIONAL MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LAWS. THE PURVIEW OF THESE COURTS HAS BEEN SHRINKING OVER THE YEARS AND NOW ENCOMPASSES ONLY SUCH MATTERS AS MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, ADOPTION, CUSTODY OF MINORS AND INHERITANCE. WE BELIEVE THESE COURTS TO BE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL."

5. SECTION 2, SECOND PARAGRAPH. INSERT FOLLOWING BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND SENTENCES:"THE U.S.G. IS ASSISTING JORDAN IN SOME OF THESE IMPORTANT AREAS. SEVERAL PROJECTS NOW IN THE PLANNING STAGES WILL PROVIDE A SAFE SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC WATER TO A NUMBER OF URBAN AND RURAL LOCALITIES. A SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LOAN HAS ALLOWED JORDAN TO BUILD NEW SCHOOLS IN MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, AND A NEW HEALTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES THROUGHOUT JORDAN. A JORDAN VALLEY VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ENCOMPASSES CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS, CLINICS, AND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS AND PROVIDES MORTGAGE LOAN FUNDING TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO BUY OR IMPROVE HOMES."

6. SECTION 2, FINAL PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "THERE IS NO OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ARE OPEN TO THEM, AND WITH THE PRESENT LABOR SHORTAGE THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO ENTER THE LABOR FORCE. ALTHOUGH JORDAN'S SOCIETY RETAINS ITS TRADITIONAL CHARACTER OF MALE PREDOMINANCE, PUBLIC AND

PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS TO ATTRACT MORE WOMEN INTO THE LABOR FORCE ARE SLOWLY MAKING PROGRESS. WOMEN MAKE UP 14 PER CENT OF JORDAN'S NON-AGRICULTURAL WORK FORCE, AS OPPOSED TO 4 PERCENT IN 1975; SEVERAL WOMEN ARE OFFICERS IN JORDAN'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. AS AN INDICATION OF THE LEADING ROLE JORDAN WISHES TO PLAY IN THE ARAB WORLD IN IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, IT HOSTED THIS YEAR A REGIONAL

UN CONFERENCE ON "WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT". "

7. SECTION 3. A, DELETE LAST PARAGRAPH AND SUBSTITUTE:
"JORDAN'S LABOR MOVEMENT IS OFFICIALLY ENCOURAGED BY
THE GOVERNMENT. OVER THE PAST YEAR, UNION LEADERSHIP HAS

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BEEN INCREASINGLY URGED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO INVOLVE
ITSELF ACTIVELY IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS TO BENEFIT
NOT ONLY UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, BUT THEIR
NON-UNION MEMBERS AS WELL. THUS UNION-SPONSORED HEALTH
CLINICS PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO ANYONE WHO SEEKS IT.
GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION OF UNION ACTIVITIES, AND OF UNION
ELECTIONS IN PARTICULAR, WAS MUCH LIGHTER THIS YEAR THAN
IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST."

8. SECTION 3 C: SECOND PARAGRAPH,DELETE LAST SENTENCE AND
SUBSTITUTE: "ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE A
FULL JUDGMENT ON ITS ROLE, IT APPEARS THAT THE NCC IS
PROVIDING A FORUM FOR USEFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC ON CURRENT ISSUES."

9. SECTION 3 C: LAST PARAGRAPH, END OF FIRST SENTENCE
SHOULD READ: ".... DIRECTLY TO THE KING, THE CROWN PRINCE
AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS."

10. SECTION 4: FOLLOWING SEMICOLON IN SENTENCE BEGINNING:
"JORDAN HAS PROVIDED...", PHRASE SHOULD BE DELETED AND
REPLACED BY: "IN 1977, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PROTESTED
THE DETENTION OF SOME THREE PEOPLE BUT JORDAN HAD
RELEASED THESE PERSONS A MONTH PREVIOUSLY.

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11. IN PREAMULAR PARAGRAPH: REVISE THIRD SENTENCE TO READ
"THE BURDEN OF THIS POPULATION (OF ALMOST ONE MILLION
PERSONS) ALMOST EQUAL TO JORDAN'S ORIGINAL POPULATION,
HAS IMPOSED SEVERE STRAINS ON THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
FABRIC OF THE COUNTRY" (CLAUSE ADDED IS IN PARENTHESES.)
VELIOTES

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